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Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPIC-03 COME-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

SAM-01 INT-05 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 PA-01

PRS-01 /077 W
---------- 084624
O 170950Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1683

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4378

PLEASE PASS OPIC AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN, EINV, TH
SUBJECT: TEMCO

REF: BANGKOK 4308

1. THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY'S ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT THE CABINET DECISION TO TERMINATE THE TEMCO CONCESSIONS HAS RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND SOME BACKTRACKING. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, PRIME MINISTER SENI, TO THE DISGUST OF THE AGITATORS HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO APPEASE, BACKTRACKED ON MARCH 15, SAYING THAT THE CABINET DECISION WAS NOT AN ORDER TO TERMINATE THE CONCESSIONS BUT ONLY AN OPINION THAT THEY SHOULD BE TERMINATED AND THAT THE ISSUE WAS UP TO THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY.

2. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ON MARCH 17 SPOKE WITH GRAHAM NELSON OF TEMCO WHO REPORTED THAT THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE MET UNTIL MIDNIGHT FRIDAY, MARCH 14 AND AGAIN ON SUNDAY THE 16TH WITHOUT COMING UP WITH A LEGAL WAY OF
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IMPLEMENTING THE CABINET'S DECISION. NELSON SAID THAT

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OFFICIALS OF UNION CARBIDE AND SHELL (PARENT COMPANIES OF TEMCO) HAVE BEEN CALLED TO A LATE MORNING MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY TODAY (MARCH 17) TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. INCREDIBLY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH TEMCO SINCE THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE GOVERNMENT CAME UNDER ATTACK IN JANUARY. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE TEMCO MATTER SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON MARCH 13 BY THE EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS. THE AIDE MEMOIRE IN GENERAL FOLLOWED THE SAME LINE THAT WAS CONTAINED IN AMBASSADOR KINTNER'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER SENI OF MARCH 10, ADDING THE THOUGHT THAT THE COMPANY WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS EXPANDED THAI PARTICIPATION IN TEMCO.
MASTERS

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NNN

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05 JUL 2006

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